

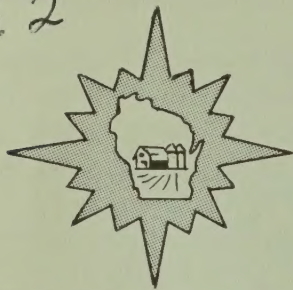
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# WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

VOL. VIII, NO. 7

May 1976

## Cream of the News

Wholesale prices of dairy products in April were higher than a month earlier.

Cold storage stocks of butter and cheese in the Nation at the end of April continued below the previous year.

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for milk sold during April were expected to average \$9.15 a hundredweight, a decline of 9 cents from March.

Milk production on Wisconsin farms in April was 6 percent above a year earlier, the seventh consecutive month of a higher milk output.

Based on weekly estimates for April, production of American cheese in Wisconsin and the Nation will continue well above a year ago while butter production will be down.

Cash receipts from milk sales by Wisconsin farmers totaled nearly \$1.5 billion in 1975, up 7 percent from 1974.

Higher prices for livestock offset declines in milk, eggs, and most crops as the index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers in mid-April was up from March.

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of April were 8 percent below last year as the pork supply continued lower.

Feeder pig prices in Wisconsin averaged \$44.90 in April, a gain of \$3.90 from January.

The beef market at St. Paul and Kansas City showed strength from March to April.

Maple syrup production in the Nation for 1976 was down 23 percent from the previous year but Wisconsin had a small increase.

Mink pelt production in Wisconsin during 1975 was 3 percent larger than in 1974 but the National mink production was down 2 percent.

Wisconsin's weather in May was favorable for planting crops but cold nights and some moisture shortages were retarding crop development.

## MILK PRODUCTION REMAINS HIGHER

Milk production on Wisconsin farms during April totaled 1,774 million pounds, an increase of 6 percent from a year ago and the seventh consecutive month of higher milk production. The State's milk output increased 27 million pounds from March to April in contrast to a decline of 8 million pounds for those months in 1975. Production per cow for April averaged 980 pounds, up 55 pounds from a year earlier. During the first four months of 1976, Wisconsin's milk production was 6 percent above the corresponding period last year.

The annual quantity of grain and other concentrates fed to Wisconsin milk cows during 1975 totaled 3,497,000 tons, an increase of 12,000 tons from 1974. Dairymen in the State fed an average of 3,860 pounds of grain and concentrates per milk cow in 1975, just slightly less than the previous year. The average value for 100 pounds of concentrate ration fed to milk cows in 1975 was a record high of \$5.97, up 16 cents from 1974. Higher milk prices in the second half of 1975 offset the increase in ration values and consequently milk-feed price ratios improved. The milk-feed price ratio (value of concentrate ration equal in value to 1 pound of whole milk) averaged 1.36 for 1975, a gain of 3 percent from 1974.

Milk Production

Selected States	April 1975	April 1976	Jan.-April 1976	Change from last year	
				April	Jan.-April
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin . . .	1,676	1,774	6,690	+ 6	+ 6
Minnesota . . .	882	895	3,365	+ 1	n. c.
Iowa . . . . .	345	346	1,320	n. c.	+ 1
New York . . .	884	913	3,457	+ 3	+ 4
Pennsylvania . .	624	635	2,405	+ 2	+ 3
California . . .	902	957	3,633	+ 6	+ 6
Other states . .	4,808	4,930	18,623	+ 3	+ 2
United States .	10,121	10,450	39,493	+ 3	+ 3

## MILK PRICES LOWER IN APRIL

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all milk sold during April are expected to average \$9.15 a hundredweight,

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a decline of 9 cents from the previous month. However, the April average would be \$1.63 above last year.

Milk prices for March averaged \$9.24 a hundredweight, up 20 cents from February and \$1.77 higher than March 1975. Milkfat content for March averaged 3.75 percent compared with 3.79 percent in that month a year ago.

Grade A milk producers received an average of \$9.50 a hundredweight for milk in March, an increase of 17 cents from February and \$1.80 above a year earlier. Manufacturing grade milk averaged \$8.84 a hundredweight during March, a gain of 26 cents from the previous month and \$1.71 more than last year. The price spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 66 cents for March compared with 57 cents in March 1975.

**Milk Prices 1/**

Selected States	February 1976		March price per cwt.			April 1976 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1975	1976	76/75 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin . . . . .	3.77	9.04	7.47	9.24	+ 24	9.15
Minnesota . . . . .	3.64	8.63	7.07	8.79	+ 24	8.84
Iowa . . . . .	3.78	9.10	7.31	9.15	+ 25	9.05
New York . . . . .	3.66	10.00	7.90	9.80	+ 24	9.40
California . . . . .	3.72	9.50	8.92	8.85	- 1	8.80
United States . . . . .	3.74	9.79	8.18	9.72	+ 19	9.48
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk . . . . .	3.78	9.33	7.70	9.50	+ 23	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.75	8.58	7.13	8.84	+ 24	xxx
Creameries . . . . .	3.72	8.58	7.07	8.78	+ 24	xxx
Cheese factories . . . . .	3.75	8.59	7.14	8.85	+ 24	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.74	8.52	7.09	8.79	+ 24	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

**Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/**

Utilization	March 1975	February 1976	March 1976 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses . . . . .	6.93	8.39	8.62	+ 24
Market milk . . . . .	7.12	8.64	8.84	+ 24
Manufacturing milk . . . . .	6.65	8.01	8.30	+ 25
Creameries . . . . .	6.71	8.07	8.31	+ 24
American cheese plants . . . . .	6.63	8.01	8.31	+ 25
Varied products plants . . . . .	6.63	7.97	8.27	+ 25
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone . . . . .	7.43	9.06	9.25	+ 24

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

**— PUBLISHED MONTHLY —**

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**MARCH BUTTER PRODUCTION  
7 PERCENT BELOW YEAR AGO**

Butter production in the Nation during March was 7 percent below a year ago. Wisconsin dairy plants churned 20.3 million pounds of butter in March, about the same as March last year. California's butter output for March showed a sharp increase of 45 percent from a year earlier but Minnesota had a decline of 20 percent and all other states were down 15 percent.

Cheese production in the Nation during March was up 16 percent from the previous year. Production increases for the various types of cheese were: American 15 percent, Swiss 20 percent, Italian 22 percent, Brick and Muenster 2 percent, and all other varieties 5 percent.

Wisconsin produced 70 million pounds of American cheese in March, a gain of 11 percent from a year ago. Minnesota had an increase of 24 percent in American cheese output for March compared with last year, while Iowa was up 14 percent and all other states gained 16 percent.

**Current Dairy Products Estimates**

Item and area	March 1975	March 1976	Jan. - March 1976	Change from last year	
				March	Jan.-Mar.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin . . . . .	20,400	20,300	61,600	n. c.	+ 5
Minnesota . . . . .	23,485	18,875	51,725	- 20	- 20
California . . . . .	9,500	13,800	40,300	+ 45	+ 30
Other states . . . . .	42,960	36,351	115,421	- 15	- 11
United States . . . . .	96,345	89,326	269,046	- 7	- 5
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin . . . . .	62,800	70,000	199,900	+ 11	+ 16
Minnesota . . . . .	23,340	28,825	82,750	+ 24	+ 28
Iowa . . . . .	7,000	8,000	24,910	+ 14	+ 27
Other states . . . . .	50,977	58,996	157,205	+ 16	+ 13
United States . . . . .	144,117	165,821	464,765	+ 15	+ 17
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss . . . . .	13,537	16,251	45,553	+ 20	+ 20
Brick and Muenster . . . . .	7,118	7,262	21,017	+ 2	+ 14
Italian . . . . .	52,779	64,215	177,355	+ 22	+ 17
All other . . . . .	20,464	21,406	56,495	+ 5	+ 7
Total . . . . .	93,898	109,134	300,420	+ 16	+ 15
ALL CHEESE					
United States . . . . .	238,015	274,955	765,185	+ 16	+ 16
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/ . . . . .	59,443	67,559	179,069	+ 14	+ 4
Creamed 2/ . . . . .	76,960	82,708	222,772	+ 7	+ 2
	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin . . . . .	1,300	1,300	3,700	n. c.	- 4
Illinois . . . . .	3,300	3,685	9,515	+ 12	+ 5
Iowa . . . . .	870	1,010	2,595	+ 16	+ 14
Michigan . . . . .	3,485	3,400	8,735	- 2	- 6
Minnesota . . . . .	2,175	2,130	5,670	- 2	- 11
Other states . . . . .	58,989	61,614	155,728	+ 4	- 1
United States . . . . .	70,119	73,139	185,943	+ 4	- 1

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

**AMERICAN CHEESE PRODUCTION  
TO CONTINUE HIGHER**

According to weekly estimates for April, production of American cheese in Wisconsin and the Nation will continue substantially above a year earlier. Nationally, output of American cheese could be 21 percent higher than in April 1975 after a 17 percent increase in the first quarter of 1976. Wisconsin's production of American cheese for April will



exceed the 16 percent gain shown for the first quarter of this year compared with that period last year.

Based on weekly estimates, the Nation's butter production during April was down 14 percent from a year ago. This drop was greater than the 5 percent decline for the first quarter of 1976. Wisconsin's output of butter in April was below the previous year after having shown an increase of 5 percent during the first quarter of 1976.

#### Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1976	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1976	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
March . . . .	89,326	- 7	n. c.	165,281	+ 15	+ 11
Jan.-March . .	269,046	- 5	+ 5	464,765	+ 17	+ 16
Weeks ending:						
April 8 . . . .	20,300	- 15	- 10	40,750	+ 16	+ 16
April 15 . . . .	19,550	- 17	- 16	44,190	+ 25	+ 24
April 22 . . . .	20,650	- 12	- 13	44,400	+ 23	+ 22
April 29 . . . .	20,300	- 12	- 6	44,170	+ 20	+ 18
Total . . . .	80,800	- 14	xxx	173,510	+ 21	xxx

#### WHOLESALE DAIRY PRICES HIGHER IN APRIL

Wholesale prices of dairy products increased from March to April. The 92-score butter price at the New York market averaged 91.77 cents a pound for April. This was an increase of nearly 4 cents from the previous month and more than 21 cents above April 1975.

Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 96.88 cents a pound at Wisconsin assembly points during April. Wholesale prices of cheddar cheese were up almost 2½ cents from March and were 18 cents higher than a year ago.

Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged over \$1.23 a pound for April. This was a gain of more than 3 cents from a month earlier and about 18½ cents above April last year.

#### Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	April 1975	March 1976	April 1976 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . .	70.42¢	88.06¢	91.77¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/ . .	78.80¢	94.42¢	96.88¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/ . . . . .	104.95¢	120.30¢	123.50¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range . . . .	\$11.90-12.49	\$13.20-14.20	\$ — — —
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound . . . . .	60.66¢	63.37¢	62.90¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

#### MEAT STOCKS 8 PERCENT BELOW APRIL LAST YEAR

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of April were 8 percent below last year. Although stocks of beef were up 13 percent from April 30, 1975, supplies of pork in cold storage were down 24 percent.

There were 394.4 million pounds of beef in cold storage at the end of April. This was about 1 million pounds under a month earlier but more than 94 million pounds above last year.

Pork stocks in cold storage on April 30 totaled 262 million pounds. Although pork supplies increased by over 14 million pounds during April, they were 83 million pounds below a year ago.

#### Cold Storage Stocks of Meat United States

Commodity	April 30, 1974	April 30, 1975	Mar. 31, 1976	April 30, 1976	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
Beef:					
Frozen . . . . .	454,118	339,576	384,901	383,543	+ 13
In cure and cured . . . .	13,308	9,431	10,424	10,834	+ 15
Total . . . . .	467,426	349,007	395,325	394,377	+ 13
Pork:					
Frozen . . . . .	383,856	329,380	228,718	245,570	- 25
In cooler . . . . .	15,259	15,740	19,125	16,459	+ 5
Total . . . . .	399,115	345,120	247,843	262,029	- 24
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen . . . . .	13,723	11,323	8,743	8,618	- 24
Lamb and mutton, frozen . .	14,149	9,963	9,477	9,491	- 5
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams . . . . .	84,599	70,318	54,297	49,151	- 30
Other meats . . . . .	16,852	15,332	11,709	11,035	- 28
Total, all meats . . . . .	995,864	801,063	727,394	734,701	- 8

#### STATE'S MINK PRODUCTION HIGHER IN 1975

Mink ranches in Wisconsin produced 915,000 pelts in 1975, an increase of 3 percent from 1974. Wisconsin leads the Nation in mink production, with more than double the output of the next ranking state. Wisconsin accounted for 30 percent of the Nation's mink pelts produced in 1975.

There were 265 mink ranches producing pelts in Wisconsin during 1975, down 12 percent from the previous year. Mink raisers have 238,000 females bred to produce kits in 1976, a decline of 10,000 from 1975. Standard was the main color class of mink pelts produced in Wisconsin during 1975 with 32 percent of the total, followed by pastel with 25 percent.

Mink pelt production in the Nation during 1975 totaled 3,080,000 pelts, a decline of 2 percent from a year earlier. Mink ranches numbered 1,081, down 11 percent from 1974. There are 866,000 females bred to produce kits in 1976, just slightly less than the previous year.

#### Mink Production

State	Ranches producing pelts		Pelts produced		Females bred	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1975	1976
	Number		1,000		1,000	
Wisconsin . . . . .	302	265	889	915	248	238
Minnesota . . . . .	160	146	443	411	112	134
Utah . . . . .	198	186	315	308	99	97.5
Washington . . . . .	59	55	158	151	43	41.5
Ohio . . . . .	51	36	131	118	35	35.5
Oregon . . . . .	50	47	158	168	41	38.5
Illinois . . . . .	31	31	158	179	44	45
Michigan . . . . .	43	35	135	114	34	30.5
New York . . . . .	44	38	117	89	28.5	28
Pennsylvania . . . . .	54	51	121	125	39.5	38.5
Idaho . . . . .	44	39	136	135	39	38
Iowa . . . . .	59	53	112	116	34.5	32.5
South Dakota . . . . .	8	8	62	55	15.5	14.5
Indiana . . . . .	14	8	31	17	5.9	4.5
Massachusetts . . . . .	15	16	20	23	6	6
All other states . . . . .	89	67	142	156	44.7	43.1
United States . . . . .	1,221	1,081	3,128	3,080	870	866



## MILK SALES REACH \$1.5 BILLION IN 1975

Preliminary estimates indicate that cash receipts for milk sold by Wisconsin farmers in 1975 totaled almost \$1.5 billion. This was an increase of 7 percent from 1974. Milk prices averaged \$8.20 a hundredweight for 1975, up 53 cents from the previous year. The total pounds of milk marketed by Wisconsin farmers during 1975 was 1 percent more than

in 1974.

Of the 18,355 million pounds of milk produced on Wisconsin farms in 1975, farmers marketed 97 percent and kept 3 percent for use on their farms. Milk production during 1975 rose considerably above 1974 in the last quarter of the year. The annual average production per cow for 1975 was 10,430 pounds, up 40 pounds from a year earlier.

Disposition and Sales of Milk Produced, Wisconsin, 1957-75

Year	Total milk production	Milk fed or consumed on farms where produced				Milk sold from farms				
		Fed to calves	Consumed in the farm household		Total	To plants and dealers		Direct to consumers	Total	Value of sales
			As milk and cream	As farm butter		As cream	As milk			
		Million pounds								1,000 dollars
1957 . . . .	17,433	604	355	9	968	90	16,345	30	16,465	557,428
1958 . . . .	17,956	594	349	7	950	50	16,926	30	17,006	557,478
1959 . . . .	17,815	577	335	6	918	50	16,817	30	16,897	555,615
1960 . . . .	17,780	545	320	5	870	40	16,840	30	16,910	588,459
1961 . . . .	17,931	515	302	4	821	30	17,050	30	17,110	609,158
1962 . . . .	18,598	490	286	3	779	20	17,770	29	17,819	609,297
1963 . . . .	18,597	475	277	2	754	14	17,800	29	17,843	610,199
1964 . . . .	19,358	460	267	2	729	10	18,590	29	18,629	646,243
1965 . . . .	18,841	445	257	1	703	9	18,100	29	18,138	645,514
1966 . . . .	18,052	430	240	1	671	5	17,350	26	17,381	741,953
1967 . . . .	18,219	415	229	1	658 1/	5	17,530	26	17,561	763,812
1968 . . . .	18,210	400	209	—	609	5	17,570	26	17,601	807,717
1969 . . . .	18,051	384	210	—	594	2	17,430	25	17,457	851,741
1970 . . . .	18,435	383	196	—	579	1	17,830	25	17,856	915,774
1971 . . . .	18,848	386	182	—	568	—	18,260	20	18,280	970,059
1972 . . . .	19,226	381	181	—	562	—	18,645	19	18,664	1,035,142
1973 . . . .	18,442	376	178	—	554	—	17,870	18	17,888	1,201,337
1974 . . . .	18,713	372	175	—	547	—	18,150	16	18,166	1,396,227
1975* . . . .	18,900	373	172	—	545	—	18,340	15	18,355	1,495,039

\*Preliminary. 1/Includes some milk used for other purposes on farms or not utilized.

## CHEESE AND BUTTER STOCKS STILL DOWN

Cold storage stocks of butter and cheese in the Nation at the end of April continued under a year earlier. The 42.3 million pounds of butter in cold storage on April 30 were 37 percent less than on that date in 1975. Government butter stocks totaled under 4 million pounds compared with almost 32 million pounds a year ago.

There were nearly 402 million pounds of cheese in cold storage at the end of April, down 9 percent from the previous year. Stocks of American cheese, at 342 million pounds were 10 percent below April 30, 1975. Swiss cheese stocks in cold

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	April 30, 1974	April 30, 1975	April 30, 1976	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				Percent
UNITED STATES				
Butter . . . . .	79,019	66,712	42,332	- 37
Cheese, American . . . . .	415,593	380,232	342,012	- 10
Cheese, Swiss . . . . .	12,857	11,009	7,220	- 34
Cheese, all other . . . . .	61,021	50,267	52,594	+ 5
Cheese, total . . . . .	489,471	441,508	401,826	- 9
WISCONSIN				
Butter . . . . .	3,799	5,524	4,269	- 23
Cheese, American . . . . .	236,508	199,934	175,474	- 12
GOVERNMENT STOCKS*				
Butter . . . . .	6,290	31,874	3,808	- 88
Cheese, American . . . . .	429	2,951	537	- 82

\*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products  
United States

Commodity	March 31, 1974	March 31, 1975	March 31, 1976	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				Percent
Dried whole milk . . . . .	8,313	6,003	7,406	+ 23
Dried skim milk . . . . .	58,022	117,480	57,147	- 51
Dried buttermilk . . . . .	6,342	5,682	6,202	+ 9
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ .	62,157	54,306	57,385	+ 6

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

storage at the end of April were 34 percent lower than a year earlier but stocks of all other cheese were up 5 percent.

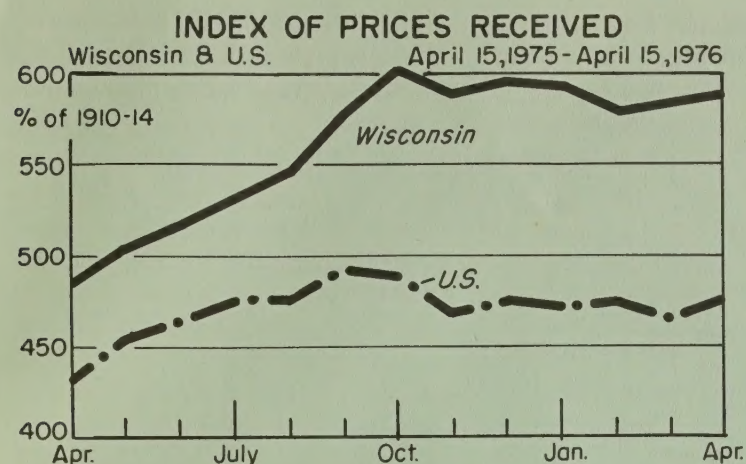
## PRICES RECEIVED INDEX HIGHER IN MID-APRIL

The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers for farm products sold during the month ending on April 15 was up 3 points from mid-March. Higher prices for livestock offset declines in the price of milk, eggs and most crops. At 589 percent of the 1910-14 base, the prices received index was 105 points (22 percent) above April 15, 1975.

Milk cows for herd replacements averaged \$545.00 each in mid-April, up \$20 from March and the seventh consecutive monthly gain. A year ago milk cows averaged only \$455.00 each for April.

Steers and heifers increased from March to April for their first price gain in seven months. At \$37.20 a hundred-





Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

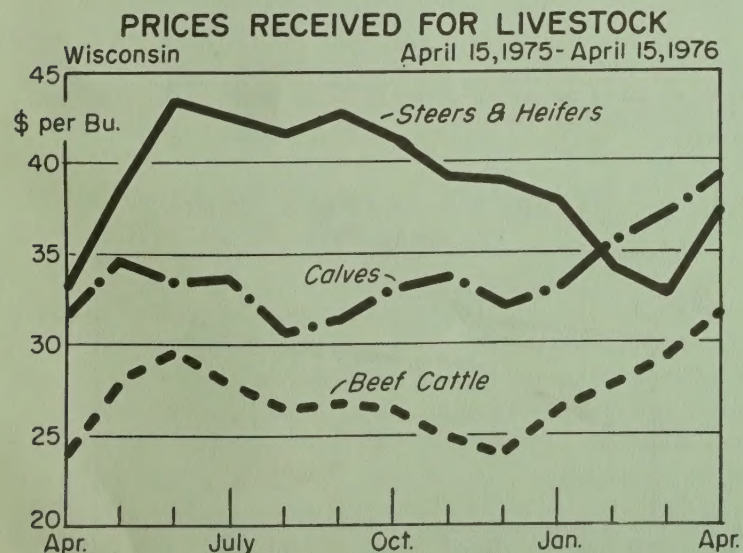
Commodity	Unit	April 15, 1974	April 15, 1975	March 15, 1976	April 15, 1976
Dollars					
Milk cows . . . .	Head	650.00	455.00	525.00	545.00
Steers and heifers .	Cwt.	36.90	32.70	32.80	37.20
Cows . . . . .	Cwt.	31.00	20.40	27.90	29.50
Calves . . . . .	Cwt.	52.10	31.30	37.00	39.20
Hogs . . . . .	Cwt.	30.00	38.40	45.70	46.40
Sheep . . . . .	Cwt.	10.40	7.80	11.20	11.70
Lambs . . . . .	Cwt.	35.30	36.60	44.50	48.90
Chickens 1/ . . . .	Lb.	.125	.115	.105	.105
Turkeys . . . . .	Lb.	.320	.370	.320	2/
Eggs . . . . .	Doz.	.486	.396	.490	.470
Corn . . . . .	Bu.	2.48	2.73	2.52	2.49
Wheat . . . . .	Bu.	4.14	3.25	3.25	3.04
Oats . . . . .	Bu.	1.27	1.45	1.40	1.39
Soybeans . . . . .	Bu.	5.11	5.50	4.34	4.41
Alfalfa hay, baled .	Ton	34.00	43.00	52.50	51.00

1/Excludes broilers. 2/Insufficient sales to establish price.

weight on April 15, steers and heifers were \$4.40 above a month earlier and \$4.50 higher than last year.

Slaughter cows averaged \$29.50 a hundredweight in mid-April, their highest price in two years. Slaughter cows increased \$1.60 from March to April and were \$9.10 above a year ago.

Calves averaged \$39.20 a hundredweight for April, a gain of \$2.20 from the previous month and almost \$8.00 more than April 1975.



Hogs increased 70 cents from March to April and at \$46.40 a hundredweight were \$8.00 above April 15 last year.

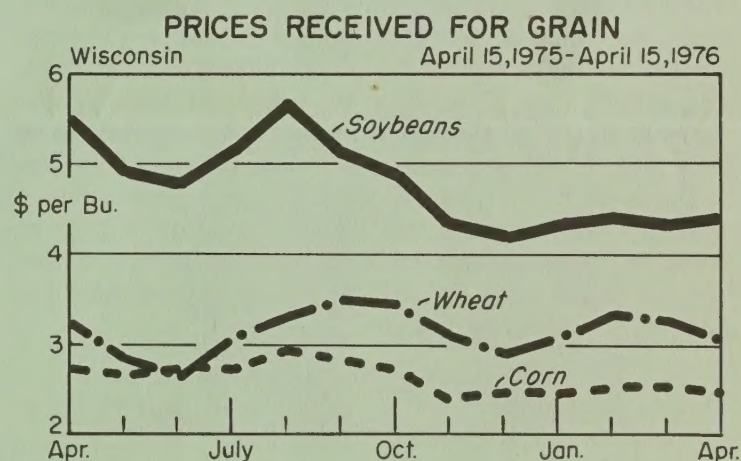
Sheep averaged \$11.70 a hundredweight in April, up 50 cents from a month earlier and \$3.90 higher than April 1975. This was the best price for sheep since April 1952. Lambs, at \$48.90 a hundredweight for mid-April were a record high. Lambs increased \$4.40 from March to April and were \$12.30 above last year.

Egg prices averaged 47 cents a dozen on April 15, a decline of 2 cents from the previous month but more than 7 cents above a year ago.

Except for soybeans, crop prices dropped from March to April. Soybeans averaged \$4.41 a bushel in April, up 7 cents from a month earlier but \$1.09 below last year. Corn averaged \$2.49 a bushel on April 15, a decline of 3 cents from March and 24 cents under a year ago.

Wheat, at \$3.04 a bushel for mid-April, was 21 cents lower than both a month and a year earlier. Oats averaged \$1.39 a bushel for April, down 1 cent from March and 6 cents below April 1975.

The mid-April alfalfa hay price of \$51.00 a ton baled was \$1.50 less than the previous month but \$8.00 above a year ago.

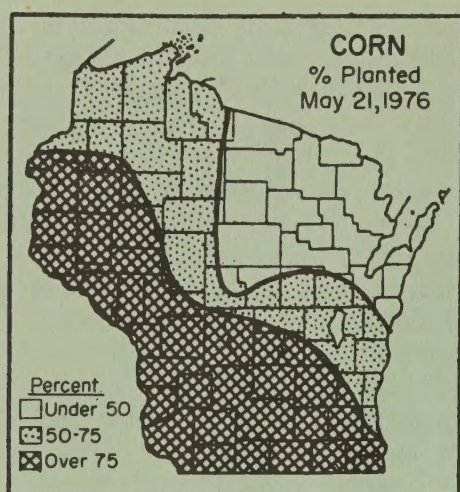


## MAY CROP REPORT

The weather in May has been favorable for planting of crops but cold nighttime temperatures and a shortage of moisture in the northwest have held back crop growth. There have been several nights of frost during May which have retarded development of crops. Rainfall in the northwest area of the State has been much below normal this spring. Other areas of Wisconsin are in better shape for moisture because of good rains on the weekend of May 15-16. However, the week of May 17-23 had very little rainfall and more moisture is needed.

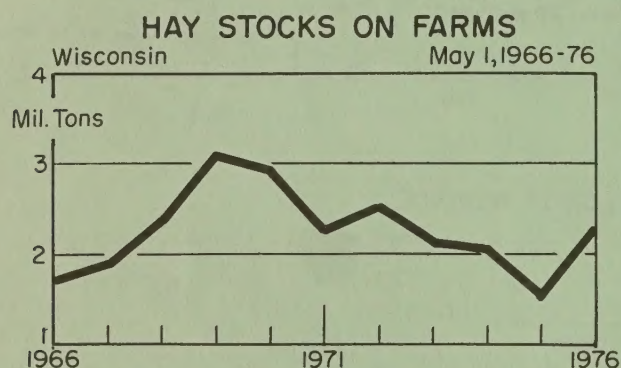
Planting of corn was 75 percent completed as of May 24th. That rate of planting was equal to 1975 when May was also a good planting month. Normally 55 percent of the State's corn acreage has been planted by that date. Early corn was up and in need of warmer nights for growth. Some of the corn planted in April did not have the best germination and replanting was necessary in a few instances.





The rains of May 15-16 were very helpful for corn germination. Planting of soybeans was 30 percent finished by May 24th compared with 25 percent a year earlier and 20 percent normally.

Growth of hay fields and pastures have been restricted by cold nights and a lack of moisture in the northwest and adjacent western counties. First crop hay could be short in the drier areas unless substantial rains come soon. The hay crop looks best in the southern area where spring growth was earlier and moisture has been more sufficient. Pasture conditions this spring have been below normal because of the cold temperatures. Less than 40 percent of the roughage requirements for cattle were being fulfilled by pastures as of May 24th. This has necessitated feeding of stored hay. Hay stocks as of May 1 were 40 percent above a year earlier. A reduced cattle inventory and a larger corn crop in 1975 resulted in a lower disappearance of hay from January to May. Old hay stands came through the winter in good shape but some new seedings were spotty.



Oats and wheat were looking good where moisture was adequate. Some of the small grains were hurting for moisture on the light soils. Planting of oats this year ranged over a two month period as some farmers in the south planted oats in March while others in the east still had no oats seeded by mid-May because of wet grounds.

Planting of potatoes, sweet corn, late peas, and other vegetable crops was continuing as of May 24th. Fruit trees were affected by frost during May but the extent of damage will not be apparent until the fruits develop more. Most tobacco beds were seeded by mid-May. The outlook for all crops as of late May varied considerably throughout the

State. Cold temperatures and the lack of rain have severely limited crop growth in the northwest area. Development of crops has been best in the south where spring planting was earlier and moisture was adequate.

Rainfall in Inches, by Districts, Wisconsin

District	Month of April		
	1975	1976	Normal
Northwest . . . . .	3.6	1.7	2.5
North Central . . . . .	3.4	2.6	2.4
Northeast . . . . .	3.0	2.6	2.6
West Central . . . . .	5.4	3.3	2.7
Central . . . . .	3.9	4.7	2.8
East Central . . . . .	2.4	3.3	2.8
Southwest . . . . .	4.4	4.0	3.0
South Central . . . . .	3.6	4.7	2.9
Southeast . . . . .	3.2	5.5	2.9

### FEEDER PIG PRICES UP FOR APRIL QUARTER

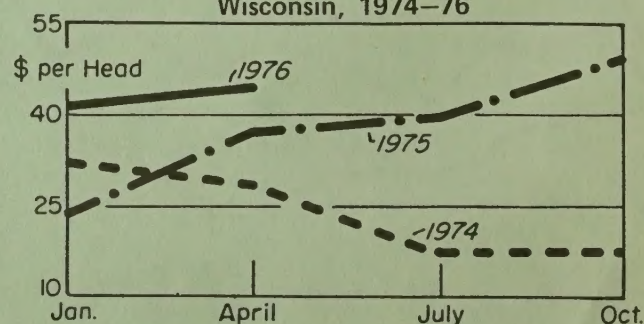
Feeder pig prices in Wisconsin increased from January to April. Wisconsin farmers reported paying an average of \$44.90 in April for a feeder pig averaging 41 pounds. This was \$3.90 more than was paid in January and \$7.60 above April last year.

Wisconsin Feeder Pig Prices and Weights 1/

Year	January	April	July	October
Dollars per head				
1965 . . . . .	10.50	12.10	13.00	15.15
1966 . . . . .	20.65	20.00	16.60	16.30
1967 . . . . .	14.50	14.75	15.20	14.90
1968 . . . . .	13.70	15.40	15.10	15.20
1969 . . . . .	14.00	16.40	17.80	19.00
1970 . . . . .	21.50	24.50	18.80	12.60
1971 . . . . .	9.35	12.05	12.80	14.30
1972 . . . . .	18.50	21.70	23.30	23.50
1973 . . . . .	24.80	30.90	34.50	32.10
1974 . . . . .	30.70	27.60	17.20	18.20
1975 . . . . .	23.60	37.30	39.80	49.40
1976 . . . . .	41.00	44.90		
Pounds per head				
1965 . . . . .	42	40	40	40
1966 . . . . .	41	40	40	41
1967 . . . . .	42	41	41	41
1968 . . . . .	42	40	41	41
1969 . . . . .	41	41	41	41
1970 . . . . .	41	39	40	40
1971 . . . . .	41	40	40	41
1972 . . . . .	41	40	40	40
1973 . . . . .	41	40	40	40
1974 . . . . .	40	39	40	41
1975 . . . . .	41	41	40	41
1976 . . . . .	41	41		

1/Prices paid by farmers and weights are average for the month as reported by Wisconsin Crop Correspondents.

FEEDER PIG PRICES: By Quarters  
Wisconsin, 1974-76

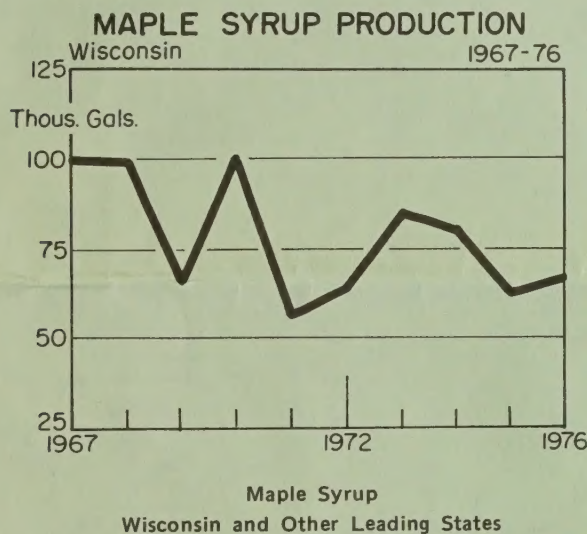




## NATION'S MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION LOWER IN 1975

Production of maple syrup in the Nation for 1976 was down 23 percent from last year. Output was lower in all maple syrup states except Wisconsin. The season throughout most of the New England states began early and ended early. Many long time producers reported this was the poorest season in their memory. Unseasonably warm weather early in the season was the major factor contributing to the poor maple syrup production which totaled only 927,000 gallons. Maple syrup prices averaged a record high of \$10.81 a gallon.

Wisconsin's maple syrup production of 66,000 gallons for 1976 was 4,000 more than in 1975. This increase was attributable to more taps. Most producers started tapping in mid-March but some reported having a February run. Except for the northwest where temperatures were lower, the majority of the producers indicated the season was too warm. The syrup produced had low to average sweetness and a medium to dark color.



State	Production		
	1974	1975	1976 1/
1,000 gallons			
Maine	7	9	7
New Hampshire	53	71	57
Vermont	325	353	334
Massachusetts	25	31	27
New York	334	366	277
Pennsylvania	77	97	40
Ohio	88	114	50
Michigan	98	98	69
WISCONSIN	80	62	66
United States	1,087	1,201	927

1/Preliminary.

## RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP SUBSTANTIALLY IN MARCH

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during March totaled 122 million pounds, an increase of 18 percent from a year ago. Output of beef was up 17 percent and pork production gained 19 percent.

There were 310,000 hogs butchered in March, up 48,000 from last year and the first time since June 1975 that the hog kill exceeded a year earlier. Hogs averaged 240 pounds liveweight for March, only 1 pound heavier than in March 1975.

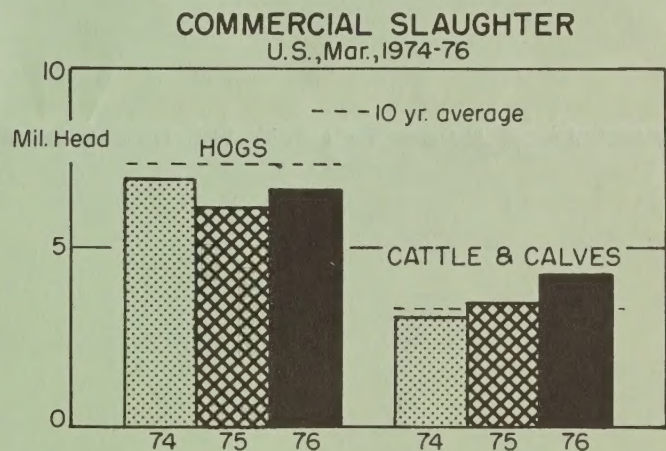
The cattle slaughter during March numbered 124,000 head, an increase of 18,000 from the previous year. Cattle liveweight, at 1,100 pounds in March, was 2 pounds heavier than a year earlier.

Calf slaughter in March totaled 43,500 head, up 15,000 from March 1975. Calves averaged 140 pounds liveweight for March, down 10 pounds from last year. The 200 sheep and lambs killed in March were equal to a year ago.

### Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	March		Change from last year	March	
	1975	1976		1975	1976
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin . . . . .	106.0	124.0	+ 17	116.4	136.4
United States 1/ .	3,132.7	3,813.4	+ 22	3,206.7	3,898.5
Calves					
Wisconsin . . . . .	28.5	43.5	+ 53	4.3	6.1
United States 1/ .	361.6	496.2	+ 37	100.6	124.6
Hogs					
Wisconsin . . . . .	262.0	310.0	+ 18	62.6	74.4
United States 1/ .	6,104.5	6,611.7	+ 8	1,435.2	1,554.6
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin . . . . .	.2	.2	n. c.	.019	.020
United States 1/ .	675.0	586.7	- 13	70.9	65.5

1/Excludes Alaska.



## BEEF MARKET UP SHARPLY IN APRIL

Prices of good grade fed steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$40.06 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market during April. This was an increase of \$6.16 from March and the best price in five months. A year ago the fed steer price at St. Paul averaged \$37.32 a hundredweight.

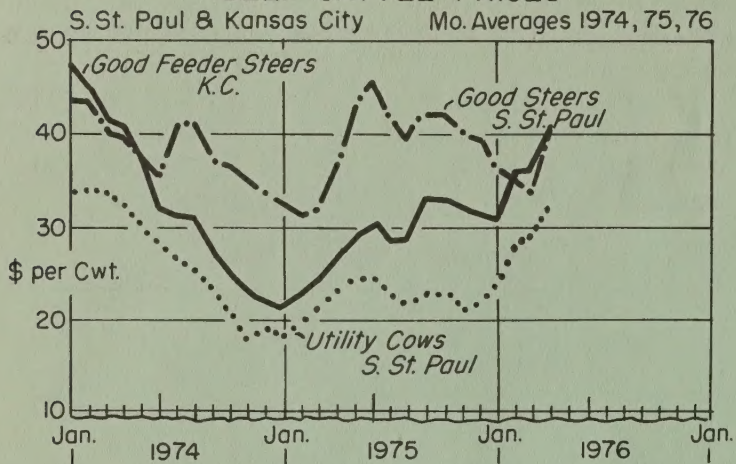
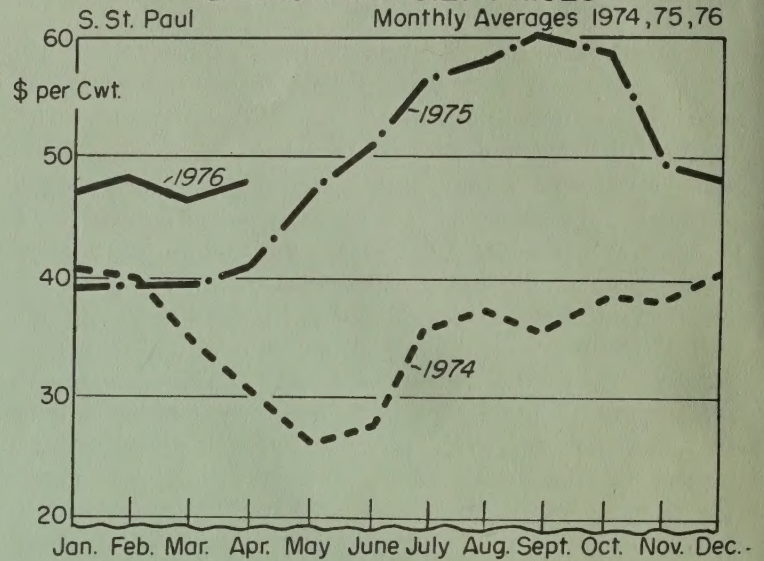
Utility cows at St. Paul averaged \$32.08 a hundredweight for April, up \$2.71 from March and \$8.94 above a year earlier.

Good grade feeder steers weighing 600-700 pounds averaged \$40.81 at the Kansas City market in April, the highest in two years. Feeder steer prices for April were up \$4.53 from March and \$14.27 greater than last year.

## HOG PRICES HIGHER

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market averaged \$48.00 a hundredweight during April. This was a gain of \$1.58 from March and \$7.19 higher than April 1975.



**BEEF CATTLE PRICES****BARROW and GILT PRICES**

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